



February 6, 2012

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Steve Renninger
Emergency Response Section # 1
26 West Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268

**RE: Vacant/abandoned Harris-Thomas Drop Forge Company, 126 Harshman Street,
Dayton Ohio 45402**

Dear Mr. Renninger:

On February 2, 2012, The Dayton Fire Department (DFD), in collaboration with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), investigated an apparent oil leak onto a City of Dayton sidewalk right-of-way, which appeared to be originating from within the vacant (abandoned) property located at 126 Harshman Street, Dayton Ohio 45403 and previously known as the Harris-Thomas Drop Forge Company.

In an attempt to determine the source of the spill, Fire Inspector Andrew Steele and OEPA representatives observed that the building is not secure, that "scrappers" have been on site and that there appears to be numerous environmental concerns, including machinery pits with standing fluids, various abandoned and unsecured chemical containers with contents, oily residue and machining product through-out the facility (both interior and exterior). Eventually, Mr. Steele and OEPA were able to identify the source of the spill to the city sidewalk. The cause was a leak from a transformer unit on the roof of the structure (west side). The transformer had been "scrapped", allowing the transformer oil to leak onto the roof surface and from which, rain water facilitated the flow of oil to the north roof gutter, down a downspout to a concrete courtyard where it then flowed under the west fence line and onto the public sidewalk and tree-lawn. A second leaking transformer was also observed, east side exterior on the hill, but this leak is to soils within the footprint of the facility.

DFD and OEPA agreed that the roof spill needed to be contained immediately, and OEPA subsequently made an emergency request for assistance to contain the roof spill to prevent further transformer oil from leaving the site. It is our understanding that a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) contractor will be mobilized to assist with this request.

DFD would like to formally request the support and assistance of the USEPA to help with evaluation, characterization or assessment activities concerning this site to determine if the second transformer leak, abandoned chemical containers, oily and machining wastes and potential underground storage tanks qualify for various programs of the US-EPA and if further emergency removal actions are needed at the property located at 126 Harshman St.

Dayton Fire Department has assigned Carson CocKayne, Fire Prevention Specialist I, to be our direct contact concerning this incident. Mr. CocKayne's phone number is 937-333-4527 and his email address is: robert.cockayne2@daytonohio.gov. Please feel free to contact either Mr. CocKayne or Fire Prevention Specialist II Andrew Steele at (937) 333-4522 for any further details and support with this situation.

Sincerely,



Herbert C. Redden, II
Director of Fire Services

HCR II/mp

c: Assistant Chief Michael Caudill
Mr. Steele
Mr. Cockayne
File